



## ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MINUTES

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS** - The meeting began at 6:01 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - led by David Forte
2. **Opening Prayer** - led by Lynn Dudok
3. **Roll Call (7 parent members required to attain quorum):**

<u>Staff &amp; Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Meaghan Anderson
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member) - E	Dan Belford
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico - L (arrived at 6:15 pm)
Dawn Vien (Non-teaching staff member) - E	Lynn Dudok (Chair)
	Candace Manning-Ramage - A
	Iyanuoluwa Obadeyi - A
	Marnie Odell - A
	Sarah Pekaruk
	Priscilla Prias-Molina
	Breeann Staibano (Co-Chair)
	Alyshia Tuomi
	Taylor Venneri

**Those who have expressed their regrets:**

- Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)
- Dawn Vien (Non-teaching staff member)

**Early Departures:**

- None

4. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved by Priscilla Prias-Molina; seconded by Sarah Pekaruk.
5. Disclosure of Interest - None.
6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of **November 25, 2024** - Minutes approved by Meaghan Anderson; seconded by Taylor Venneri.

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

**C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Nil.

#### D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report** - Mr. Forte shared the Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report (as of 25/02/2025).
- 2) **St. John Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Club** - The EDI club has been initiated again at St. John to support diversity initiatives within the school.
- 3) **Salem Chapel Black History Student Presentation** - Students in Grades 3-8 participated in a presentation on Harriet Tubman, led by Rochelle Bush from [Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church](#) on February 7.
- 4) **Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Online Safety Presentation** - As part of our ongoing school goal to promote digital citizenship, students in our Grade 6/7 & 7/8 classes participated in an online safety presentation, led by Constable Lawrence Maney. Students learned about the importance of navigating and managing online platforms safely and responsibly.
- 5) **Kids Helping Kids** - From *February 10 - 21*, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the annual Kids Helping Kids Campaign in support of the **Niagara Children's Centre** and the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised \$378.00 to support the cause.
- 6) **Shrove Tuesday** - On *March 4*, all students will receive a pancake snack, prepared by the Knights of Columbus. Donations to support various local charitable organizations through the Knights of Columbus can be made via 'SchoolCash' Online.
- 7) **Lenten & Easter Food Drive** - Our Lenten & Easter Food Drive for the **Grimsby Benevolent Fund** will run from *March 5 - April 11*.
- 8) **Knights of Columbus Lunch BBQs** - The Knights of Columbus are scheduled to provide two BBQ lunches to our students (*April 24* and *May 15*). Orders can be made via 'SchoolCash' Online and proceeds will be put toward local charitable causes through the Knights of Columbus.
- 9) **In-School Fundraising:**
  - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council will run its third and final Dance-a-Thon fundraisers in *June ('Surfs Up' theme)*. Families will be invited to make a small donation to the school through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser. Students will be encouraged to come to school dressed according to the theme and will also receive a glow stick to use during the Dance-a-Thon. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
- 10) **Kindergarten Playground** - The school continues to work with Facilities Services to have a Kindergarten playground installed at the school. Construction was deferred from this past summer due to incomplete projects taking place at other sites throughout the Board. The school has been notified by Facilities Services that the project has been deferred again to the summer of 2026 due to other priority projects and incompleteness of existing projects throughout the Board, as well as budget constraints through Ministry funding. A section of the school's roof is also up for replacement this summer and no other projects can take place during roof construction.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS:**

1) **Parish News:**

- ✓ **Confirmation** - Students in Grade 8 who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on *Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 pm* at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
- ✓ **First Communion** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on *Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 am* at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
- ✓ **Ash Wednesday Liturgy** - Father Rico will come to the school on *Wednesday, March 5* at 11:00 am to distribute ashes to students and staff. The ashes serve as a mark of our repentance and commitment to discipleship.

2) **On-going School Initiatives:**

- ✓ Promoting equity and inclusivity and celebrating diversity in our school community.
- ✓ Promoting online safety and responsible digital citizenship in our community.
- ✓ Continue to strengthen the relationship with associate Catholic secondary school with a retention rate goal of 100%.

3) **Catholic School Council Goals:**

- ✓ Continue to develop technological resources in the school with a goal of one Chromebook for every one student in Grades 1 through 8 and replacing non-functional Smartboards and LCD projectors with interactive TVs.
- ✓ Organization and facilitation of a 'Family Fun Night' in June to continue to build community among students and families.

**F. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:**

- 1) **Parent Engagement Funds** - The school has received an allotment of \$500.00 to use for parent engagement in an effort to support student achievement and well-being. Chairperson shared ideas for a parent engagement activity for St. John that meet the criteria outlined in the memorandum. Catholic School Councils may apply for additional funds up to \$1,000.00.
  - ✓ *Paul Davis - How parents can support their child in managing and navigating online platforms and digital devices safely (with St. Edward)*
    - *Grades 4 - 5 Virtual Learning Session: Link to be provided to teachers.*
    - *Grades 6 - 8 In-Person Presentation: Monday, May 12 (during the school day).*
    - *In-Person Parent Presentation: Monday, May 12 @ St. John (6:30 pm).*
- 2) **Fundraising for 2024-2025** - Members will continue to focus on the established fundraiser through Niagara Fresh Market, which will continue throughout the school year. Chair & Co-Chair to provide monthly reminder messages to be sent to the community via 'SchoolMessenger'.
- 3) **Family Movie Night** - The Council is moving forward with a Family Movie Night to be held at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines in early Spring. Tickets to be sold via 'SchoolCash' Online. Council members to assist with the organization of tickets, based on the 'SchoolCash' report, so they can be distributed efficiently at the school, if needed. The proposed date and time is *Thursday, April 10 at approximately 5:30 pm* (subject to change based on theatre availability).

- 4) **Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council will move forward with facilitating a pot-luck appreciation lunch for St. John staff in the Spring. Members to work with the Chair and Co-chair to organize. The proposed date is *Friday, May 2*.
- 5) **Family Fun Night** - Chair/Co-Chair to share details regarding the planning of a Family Fun Night.
  - ✓ **Date:** *Wednesday, June 4*
  - ✓ **Time:** 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
  - ✓ **Items to be reviewed with the Principal and discussed further at the next meeting:**
    - List of activities and cost for each activity within operating budget
    - Schedule to satisfy the activities on the list
    - List of volunteers to satisfy the activities and schedule
    - Donations for gift baskets to facilitate a raffle
- 6) **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from latest NCPIC meeting.
- 7) **Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from OAPCE.

**G. REVIEW OF KEY DATES AND DATES OF INTEREST:**

- ✓ Catholic School Council meetings will take place four times per year and will be held in-person in the school's Library Information Centre.
- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*
  - 1) Monday, September 23
  - 2) Monday, November 25
  - 3) Tuesday, February 25
  - 4) Tuesday, April 29
- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
  - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Thursday, February 27 @ 7:00 pm
  - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Saturday, April 26 @ 11:00 am
  - Grade 8 Graduation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Thursday, June 19 @ 5:00 pm, followed by dinner and dancing for students at Galileo Gardens from 7:00 - 10:00 pm.

**H. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

**J. CLOSING PRAYER** - led by Breeann Staibano